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# Human rights in Bulgaria



# **Bulgaria was Elected as a Member to UN Human Rights Council**



**Bulgaria  
for the  
UN Human Rights Council  
2019 - 2021**

- The Human Rights Council has the power to discuss all thematic issues and human rights situations that require its attention throughout the year, as well as make recommendations. The Council includes 47 states elected by the United Nations General Assembly.



- During the 73rd session of the UN General Assembly in New York, Bulgaria was elected for a member to the Human Rights Council for the period 2019-2021, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced in a press release. 180 out of 188 UN member states that were present and voted, supported Bulgaria. The result of Bulgaria is fifth among the eighteen countries - candidates for membership of the HRC and the first among the EU candidate countries - together with Italy.



UNITED NATIONS  
**HUMAN RIGHTS**  
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER



Bulgaria is committed to supporting the independence of UN human rights structures and to working for the protection of the rights of the children, equality between women and men, the rights of people with disabilities, the creation of tolerant societies, taking into account.



# Right to Life, Protection from Torture, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment

The situation with the right to life, protection from torture,  
inhuman  
and degrading treatment marked a certain progress in the  
aspect of  
improvement of the material conditions which is very  
important for the security of inhabitants .

UN Committee against Torture disclosed alarming observations after examining the periodic report of Bulgaria under the Convention against Torture. They refer to the widespread ill treatment of persons detained in Bulgarian police precincts, especially from the Roma community, practiced with impunity. The inhuman treatment of individuals held in custody in some places of detention , abuse of chemical agents for immobilization, violence and inhuman conditions in a number of health care and social institutions . Ill treatment and push backs of asylum seekers, return of migrants to countries in which their life and security would be threatened.





# Role of the Police and Security Apparatus

The Ministry of Interior is responsible for law enforcement, migration, and border enforcement. The State Agency for National Security (DANS), which reports to the Prime Minister's Office, is responsible for counterintelligence, domestic intelligence analysis, and investigating corruption and organized crime. Civilian authorities maintained effective control over the police and security services. Police and the prosecution service are responsible for investigating security force killings. While the government had mechanisms to investigate and punish abuse and corruption, implementation was inadequate, and impunity was a problem.

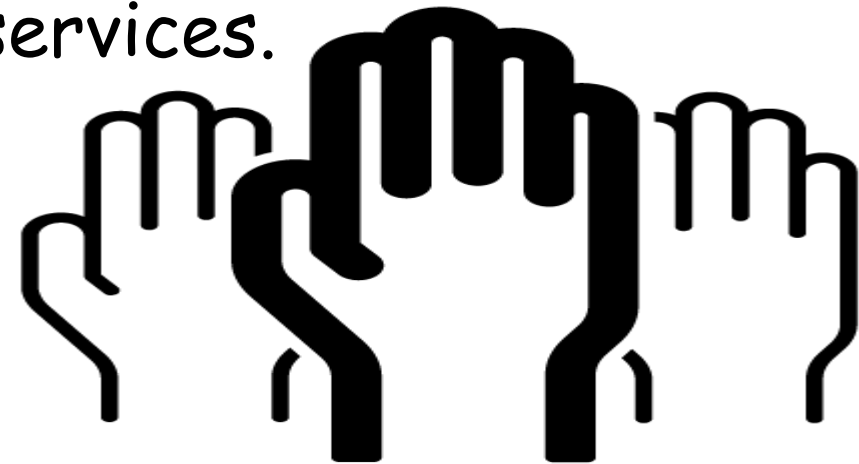
# Freedom of Speech and Expression

- The law provides for freedom of speech and press, and the government generally respected these rights. Individuals criticized the government without official reprisal. In rural areas offering fewer employment opportunities, however, individuals were more hesitant to criticize local governments. The Bulgarian Helsinki Committee expressed concern over the "deterioration of the freedom of expression, particularly the freedom and ethical standards of practicing journalism."



# Rights of People with Mental Disabilities in Institutions

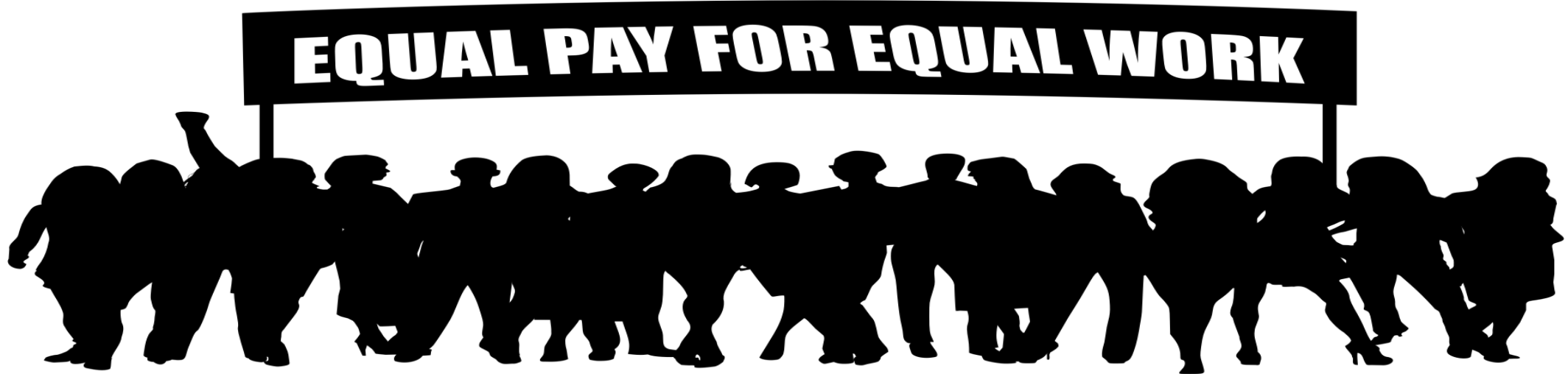
Bulgaria Improve the quality of life and of the opportunities for social inclusion of the people with disabilities and the elderly by securing a network of services and support measures in the community and at home . Also prevention of the institutionalization of people with disabilities and elderly people, and building an accepting and supportive attitude in society. Creating a regulatory framework for developing social services and integrated health care and social services.



# Women's Rights



Bulgarian women live in a society that is customarily patriarchal. Both men and women have the right to vote and own property. Despite decades of socialist ideology of gender equality, women are often employed in lower paying jobs, remain responsible for most household chores, and represent more than half the registered unemployed. They also occupy leadership positions less frequently than men.



Thank you!